

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DLOS-09 EB-07 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 IO-13 OMB-01 AGRE-00
/077 W

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P 180945Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7877
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7302

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA, UR
SUBJECT: "BROAD AGREEMENT" REACHED IN USSR-JAPAN FISHERIES TALKS

REF: TOKYO 7216

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS MAY 18 REPORTED THAT USSR HAD MADE CONCESSIONS WHICH CLEARED WAY FOR AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIANS ON JAPANESE FISHERMEN'S ACCESS TO 200 MILE ZONE. RUSSIANS ARE ALSO SAID TO HAVE WITHDRAWN DEMAND THEY BE ALLOWED TO FISH WITHIN JAPANESE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. FONOFF, AWAITING WORD OF AGREEMENT ON EXACT LANGUAGE, AND WITH CATCH JAPANESE WILL BE PERMITTED TO HARVEST STILL UNDECIDED, IS SUSPENDING JUDGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 18 MORNING PAPERS REPORTED IN BANNER HEADLINES THAT "BROAD AGREEMENT" HAD BEEN REACHED IN THREE-MONTH-LONG NEGOTIATIONS ON JAPANESE ACCESS TO SOVIET 200-MILE FISHING ZONE. SOVIETS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED TO INCLUSION OF
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CLAUSE SPECIFYING THAT DELINEATION OF ZONE AROUND DISPUTED SOUTH KURILE ISLANDS WAS ONLY FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, A CONCESSION WHICH PERMITTED JAPANESE TO ACQUIESCE TO REFERENCE TO USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION OF FEBRUARY 24 WHICH SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED SOUTHERN KURILES WITHIN SOVIET ZONE. JAPAN TIMES QUOTES "GOJ OFFICIALS" TO EFFECT THAT THIS

AGREEMENT "SIDE STEPPED TERRITORIAL ISSUE AND THEREFORE
DID NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT JAPANESE CLAIM."

2. ADDITIONALLY, SOVIETS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN
DEMAN THAT USSR BE PERMITTED TO FISH WITHIN RECENTLY-
ESTABLISHED JAPANESE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, AND
TO HAVE AGREED TO INCLUSION OF CLAUSE STATING THAT
JAPANESE 200-MILE FISHERY JURISDICTION APPLIED TO WATERS
SPECIFIED BY LAW ENACTED BY DIET MAY 2 (WHICH INCLUDED
SOUTH KURILES) AND ITS ENFORCING ORDINANCE.

3. MEDIA, ON BASIS OF BRIEFINGS BY JAPANESE NEGOTIATOR,
AGMIN SUZUKI, AND BY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA IN
TOKYO, REPORTED THAT ONLY PROBLEMS REMAINING WERE OF
TECHNICAL NATURE, AND AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SIGNED EVENING
OF MAY 18. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS UNDER NEW AGREEMENT
COULD BE DECIDED AS EARLY AS MAY 20, PRESS ALSO REPORTED.

4. ALSO ACCORDING TO JAPANESE MEDIA, BOTH SUZUKI AND
SOVIET COUNTERPART ISHKOV INDICATED SOVIET CONCESSIONS
BASED ON HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET "POLITICAL DECISION"
TAKEN AFTER RECEIPT OF PM FUKUDA'S LETTER TO BREZHNEV
AND KOSYGIN (REFTEL).

5. FISHERIES AGENCY REPORTEDLY REMINDED ASAHI THAT
EVEN IF JAPAN-SOVIET AGREEMENT SIGNED IN NEXT FEW
DAYS, FISHING WITHIN SOVIET ZONE MUST AWAIT DIET
RATIFICATION. (SALMON FISHING OUTSIDE ZONE WOULD
COMMENCE UPON SIGNING OF AGREEMENT.) AGENCY
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PREDICTED RATIFICATION WOULD OCCUR IN LAST DAYS OF
CURRENT DIET SESSION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO END
MAY 28.

6. WHEN WE LAST CHECKED, FONOFF STILL AWAITING WORD
THAT FINAL DRAFTING SESSION HAD GONE WITHOUT HITCH AND
RELUCTANT TO COMMENT UNTIL SO ASSURED.
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